

Exploring the Past, Preparing for the Future: Making Holocaust and Human Rights Relevant for Today's Students

June 9-14, 2025
New Orleans, Louisiana



Who Should Attend

Middle and High School Teachers; College Faculty; Educators from all disciplines (especially Social Studies, History, and English/Language Arts); Those who seek to deepen their knowledge, confidence, and skills for teaching challenging content

Benefits of Participation

Participants will:

- Hear from a Second Generation Holocaust Survivor
- Engage with guest speaker, NY Times Best-Selling author, Jennifer Nielsen
- Visit a synagogue to deepen understanding about Jewish religious practices, meet with a Rabbi, and attend Shabbat service
- Explore contemporary antisemitism and civil rights issues
- Tour The National World War II Museum in New Orleans
- Leave with a toolbox of activities, ideas, and lesson plans to engage students in meaningful encounters with the Holocaust and human rights issues
- Experience reflective writing as a way to process complex information

Seminar Highlights

The focus of the Louisiana seminar is to explore the intersections between Holocaust Education, Louisiana history, and human rights as a springboard for teaching and learning. Participants will use inquiry-based experiences to deepen understanding. We will weave into our own exploration civil rights and the Southern Jewish experience, allowing participants to gain the ability to understand similarities and differences between Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South.

Seminar Facilitators

Penny Kinchen has been the Middle School Administrator and English Department Chair at Central Private School in Baton Rouge, LA, for over 24 years. Affectionately known by her students as "PK," she has a particular gift of promoting proper speaking, writing, and presenting for teenagers. She also enjoys mentoring new teachers and developing curriculum. Since 2013, she has worked in Holocaust education, social justice, and human rights, seeking to be an advocate against bullying, prejudice, and antisemitism. In her spare time, PK enjoys reading, writing, and traveling.

Sherry Been, Ph.D. is a Professor in Curriculum and Instruction at Northeastern State University with over 25 years of experience as an educator. Her teaching spans all grade levels preschool through adults while working with students from rural, suburban, and urban settings. Her research interests include teacher efficacy, diversity/human rights issues, children's literature, and literacy. Holocaust education has been a meaningful piece of her curriculum development and professional development over the past 15 years. In her free time, you will find her reading, hiking, planning her next travel adventure, or spending time with family.

About TOLI Seminars

Offered at no cost to participants, TOLI provides inquiry-based professional development seminars for educators to teach about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights.

Participants become part of TOLI's national learning community and are provided with year-round mentoring, programs, and resources.

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